tion. Sometimes the outline may be undulating before becoming completely smooth in the posterior part. Ova 0.062-0.081 × 0.031-0.050.

Discussion

Mediorhynchus rajasthanensis has the least number of proboscis hooks so far reported in the genus. The species is peculiar in its males having smooth body surface whereas the gravid females show marked peudosegmentation. *M. rajasthanensis* resembles most closely *M. grande* (Van Cleave 1916) in the matter of proboscis hooks but has more spines compared to *M. grande*.

HOST: Great Indian Bustard, *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors).

LOCATION: Intestine.

TYPE-LOCALITY: Pokaran (Jaisalmer District), Rajasthan. Type specimens to be duly deposited in the National Collection in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly obliged to Shri H. C. Gupta, Divisional Forest Officer, Jodhpur and Shri Y. D. Singh, Zoo Supervisor, Jodhpur for providing the opportunity of collecting the parasites and Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Zoological Survey of India, Poona for his kind interest in the work.

Reference

Van Cleave, H. J. (1916): Acanthociphala of the genera *Centronhynchus* and *Mediorhynchus* (new genus) from North American birds. *Trans. Amer. Micros. Soc. 35*:221-232.

A NEW SPECIES OF CESTODE OF THE GENUS *SCHISTOMETRA* (CESTODA: DAVAINEIDAE: IDIOGENINAE) FROM THE GREAT INDIAN BUSTARD, *CHORIOTIS NIGRICEPS* (VIGORS)[1]

P. D. Gupta
Western Regional Station,
Zoological Survey of India, Poona 411 005
(*With four text-figures*)

Introduction

Skrjabin (1914), Baer & Fain (1955) and Yamaguti (1959) have maintained the validity of the genus *Schistometra* Cholodkovsky (1912). Yamaguti (1959) transferred *Bertia pinguis* Fuhrmann (1904) to the genus *Ophryocotyloides* Fuhrmann (1920) on the basis of a persistent uterus; and accepted only two valid species of the genus *Schistometra, S. conoides* and *S. macqueeni*. Another species is described here.

During August, 1970 two birds of the host species *Choriotis nigriceps*, were caught by the authorities of the Rajasthan Forest Department but they did not survive in captivity and were

[1] Accepted July 1974.

placed at my disposal for examination and collection of helminth parasites. Both the birds harboured the new species described below. A number of these worms were collected and about a dozen of them were mounted for study.

Schistometra nigriceps sp. nov.

Length of strobila 123-200 mm. Number of proglottids in mature strobila varying from 255-441. The proglottids much broader than long, measuring 0.279-0.409[2] in length and 1.372-4.000 in max. breadth. In no case are the segments longer than broad. Scolex 0.513 × 0.693 (Figs. 1 & 2). Rostellum 0.288 × 0.405 in diameter, armed with a single row of 300-400 hooks each 11 μ in length. Suckers 0.198-0.270 × 0.237-0.252, are provided with tentacles 0.020-0.035.

Testes in a transverse band, with its position varying in posterior half of the proglottid, and occupy the median space between the excretory canals of the two sides. In antero-posterior direction testes arranged mostly in 2-3 tiers, of 15-20 follicles, sometimes fourth tier also discernible. Testes irregularly super-imposed, 60-80 in number and measuring 0.036-0.054 in diameter. Cirrus sac extending mostly beyond ventral excretory canal and measuring 0.180-0.207 × 0.099-0.108. Eversible cirrus, when fully ejected measuring 0.270 in length and 0.054 in maximum width at its base.

Ovary 0.176-0.215 in diameter, on the poral side, between excretory canal and testes. Vagina, 0.027 in diameter, opening into genital atrium in varying position anterior or posterior to the cirrus sac. Uterus tubular or saccular, its transverse extension not properly discernible. In certain segments having early stage of testes, uterus appears to extend about half the width of the segment. In more mature segments the sac like nature of the uterus disappears. Genital duct passes between the two excretory ducts. Genital pores irregularly alternate, situated sub-marginally in the anterior part of segment (Fig. 3).

Vitelline gland lying very close and aporal to the ovary, sometimes appearing crescent shaped (Fig. 4).

Host: *Choriotis nigriceps* (Vigors).

Location: Intestine.

Locality: Pokaran (Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan).

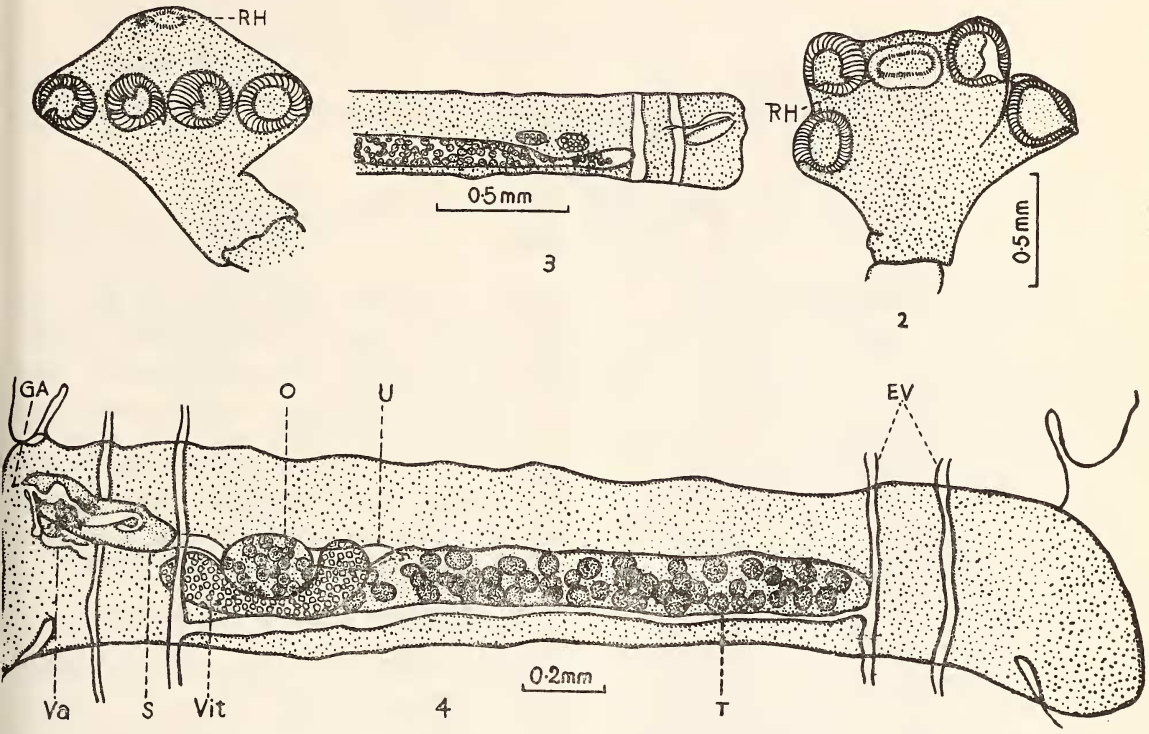
[2] All measurements in millimetres.

Discussion

Schistometra nigriceps differs from *S. conoides* in having lesser width of proglottids, lesser number of rostellar hooks, smaller number of and shorter size of testes and smaller cirrus sac. *S. nigriceps* further differs from *S. conoides* in the arrangement of rostellar hooks which are arranged in two rows in *S. conoides* (Baer 1955; p. 27) although in the key (p. 40) Baer has mentioned *S. conoides* as having a single row of rostellar hooks. *Schistometra nigriceps* differs from *S. macqueeni* in having lesser number of testes, smaller cirrus sac, a definitely oval or rounded ovary [Woodland (1930) has described transversely elongated ovary] and in the possession of tentacles on the suckers. In addition *Schistometra nigriceps* differs from *S. macqueeni* in the arangement of rostellar hooks which are arranged in a wavy fashion in *S. macqueeni* but in a simple circular row in *S. nigriceps*. The new species differs from *S. pinguis* (= *Ophryocotyloides pinguis*) in possessing greater number of rostellar hooks, absence of a persistent uterus and longer strobila.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am greatly obliged to Shri H. C. Gupta, Divisional Forest Officer, Jodhpur and Shri Y. D. Singh, Zoo Supervisor, Jodhpur for the opportunity to collect these parasites; and to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for the facilities during the work.



Schistometra nigriceps sp. nov.

Figs. 1 & 2. Scolex (RH., rostellar hooks).

Fig. 3. Mature segment (Poral part) showing the general shape and position of vitelline gland.

Fig. 4. Mature proglottid showing general anatomy and crescent shaped vitelline gland. (S., cirrus sac; EV., excretory vessels; GA., genital atrium; O., ovary; T., testes; U., uterus; Va., vagina; Vit., vitelline gland).

REFERENCES

BAER, J. G. (1955): Rivision critique de la sous-famille Idiogeninae Fuhrmann 1907 (Cestodes: Davaineidae) et etude analytique de la distribution des especies. *Rev. Suiss. Zool. 62,* Suppl. number: 3-51.

BAER, J. G. & FAIN, A. (1955): Cestodes. Exploration du Parc National du l'Upemba. Mission G.F. de Witte. pp. 38.

CHOLODKOWSKY, N. A. (1912): Explanatory Catalogue of the collection of parasitic worms in the Zoological Cabinet of the Imperial Academy of Medicine. Pt. 1. Cyclophyllidea. Petrograd. pp. 99.

FUHRMANN, O. (1904): Neue Anoplocephaliden

der Vögel. *Zool. Anz.* *27*:384-388.

Skrjabin, K. I. (1914): Vergleichende Charakteristik der Gattungen *Chapmania* Mont. und *Schistometra* Cholodkowsky. *Centralbl. Bakt. Parasit.*, Orig. *73*:397-405.

Woodland, W. N. F. (1930): On three new cestodes from birds. *Parasitology* *30*:305-314.

Yamaguti, S. (1959): Systema Helminthum Vol. 2. The Cestodes of Vertebrates. New York, pp. 860. Interscience Publishers, Inc.

A NEW *MARSDENIA* R. BR. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA[1]

A. N. Henry[2] and K. Subramanyam[3]

(*With a plate*)

Marsdenia tirunelvelica sp. nov.

Suffrutex volubilis; caules teretes, brunneoli, glabrati, ramosi. Folia ad 8.5 × 3.8 cm, elliptico-lanceata ad obovata vel pandurata, acuminata, integra, subcoriacea, atrobrunnea supra, infra vero pallida, subglabra, basi obtusa, subtruncata vel subcordata; nervis (lateralibus) 4-5 paribus, infra prominentibus; petioli 2-2.8 cm longae. Flores virido-flavi, cymis umbellatis; pedunculi inter petiolos quorum uno propinquiores, exorientes, teretes, glabri; pedicelli ad 2 cm longi, glabri; bracteae 2.3 × 1 mm, lanceatae, ad basim pedicellorum aggregatae, glabrae, persistentes. Calyx 5-partitus; lobi 2.8 × 1.8 mm, imbricati, elliptico-ovati, ad marginos minute ciliati, glandulosi intra ad basim. Corolla urceolata; tubus 3.5 mm longus, lobi 1.2 × 1.5 mm, torti, late ovati. Corona 5 lobis carnosis et parvis; lobi infra connati, leviter acclives, infra columnam staminalem adnati. Gynostegium 3 mm longum. Apices antherarum membranacei, ovato-oblongi, obtusi, super apicem styli incumbentes; alae antherarum corneae; massae pollinis erectae, minutae, oblongae, ad polliniferentes per caudiculas proprias affixae. Ovarium 2-carpellatum, pluriovulatum; stylus 0.5 mm longus, crassus; apex styli magnus, tholiformis. Fructus non visus.

Holotypus *Henry* 8421 A et isotypi *Henry* 8421 B-F lecti in collibus Agastyamalai dietis in Tirunelveli, in ditione Tamil Nadu ad altitudinum *c.* 1400 m supra mare, die 25-iv-1972; holotypus positus in CAL, isotypi in MH.

Marsdenia triunelvelica sp. nov.

Twining undershrubs; stems terete, brownish, glabrate, branched. Leaves up to 8.5 × 3.8 cm, elliptic-lanceate to obovate, or pandurate, acuminate, entire, subcoriaceous, dark green above, pale beneath, subglabrous, obtuse, subtruncate or subcordate at base; lateral nerves 4-5 pairs, prominent on the lower side; petioles 2-2.8 cm long. Flowers greenish yellow, in umbellate cymes; peduncles arising between the petioles, closer to one of them, terete, glabrous; pedicels up to 2 cm long, glabrous; bracts 2.3 × 1 mm, lanceate, crowded at the base of pedicels, glabrous, persistent. Calyx 5-partite; lobes 2.8 × 1.8 mm, imbricate, elliptic-ovate, minutely ciliate along margins, glandular at base within. Corolla urceolate; tube 3.5 mm long; lobes 1.2 × 1.5 mm, twisted, broadly ovate.

[1] Accepted February 1976.

[2] Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore.

[3] Botany Department, Central College, Bangalore.